

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

JANUARY, 1944

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Monthly Memo TO: Local Presidents

HOW strangely the world has worked! How at variance with all natural law! For every kindergarten there are a hundred, nay, a thousand prisons, jails, reformatories, asylums, and hospitals. And yet society cries out that there is need for more of these. Are we blind that we fail, as a nation, a state, and as individuals, to recognize the incontrovertible fact that such demand will never cease until we cut off the supply? And does it not behoove us to work with a will and together, that the little ones of today may not require such training as civilization offers through its police and courts of law in place of the schools.

• It is claimed with zeal which merits a nobler utterance, "You can't change human nature." How old, how trite the cry, and yet how false! Human nature changes constantly, and if we doubt that it may be changed for the better, a glance at the pages of history will dispel such doubt.

Let us have no more croaking as to what *cannot* be done; let us see what *can* be done, and, above all, see that it is done.

• Doubtless each one of you has some idea, more or less definite, as to the general object of our organization; but still

the question is repeated: How do we expect to accomplish it? To answer this and kindred questions briefly and clearly, and at the same time to impress you fully with what we deem to be the importance of this work, shall be my purpose.

• The family interest upon which rests the entire superstructure of human life and the element which may indeed be designated as the foundation of the entire social fabric, should now be the subject of our earnest and reverent consideration. I refer to what is called child study—that broad, deep theme, most worthy, in all its varying phases, of our study and attention, because it is a fundamental one.

• The mental attitude of the world today is one of receptivity; never before were people so willing to accept new thought from all sources. It has been truly said, "To cure was the voice of the past; to prevent, the divine whisper of today."

• May the whisper grow into a mighty shout throughout the land until all mankind takes it up as a battle cry. Let mothers, fathers, nurses, educators, ministers, legislators, and mightiest of all

in its swift, far-reaching influence, the press, make the child the watchword and ward of the day and hour; let all else be secondary, and coming generations will behold a new world and a new people.

• Untiring, universal, individual effort, with such organization only as may prove helpful, will build a bridge upon which struggling humanity may safely cross into a new land, leaving forever the old, with its unending reformatory movements, its shattered homes; and the keystone of that bridge will be parental love, while in that fair domain the splendid edifice of the new civilization will bear the cornerstone of home.

THE message you have just read applies today with as much force as when it was first delivered *forty-seven years ago*, on February 17, 1897, by Alice McLellan Birney, founder-president of the National Congress of Mothers. It seemed especially fitting to reprint for Founders Day the major portion of Mrs. Birney's address of welcome to the first national meeting of our organization. It is presented here so that we all may keep clearly in mind the ideals which activated the leaders of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers from its early beginnings. Only by keeping those ideals steadily before us can we hope to achieve them.

Myrietta A. Hastings

President

National Congress of Parents and Teachers



A view of the Birney Memorial in Marietta, Georgia

The memorial is of native marble and stands on a sloping corner of the grounds of the Marietta High School. Simple, chaste, and modern in design and execution, it is a lasting tribute to the memory of a great leader.

Happy Birthday

1897 • FEBRUARY 17 • 1944



ALICE McLELLAN BIRNEY

history, like Thanksgiving Day, become official occasions for celebration.

In the same way the birthday of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will always be the most significant day in the history of the organization. In honor of those two valiant women, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, who converted a dream into a reality, we call this day, February 17, Founders Day. Actually it commemorates the day, back in 1897, when an ideal first took tangible form.

In the forty-seven years since its inception, this ideal has taken firm root in the hearts of mothers, fathers, and teachers throughout the land. Today the P.T.A. is a familiar feature of American life, with two million, six hundred thousand members who believe in — and work for — the ideal that took its first bow before the world nearly half a century ago. Only the worthiest ideal could live and grow in such fashion; only the deepest faith in that ideal could have enabled the founders and earliest members to carry on until their dream was realized.

IT IS therefore fitting that once each year we should pay tribute to these founders. The observance may take any one of various forms: an appropriate talk by a member or outside speaker, a panel discussion, a play or playlet, a radio broadcast, special music. Above all, let it be gay and happy and "birthday like."

A new Founders Day pamphlet, containing a play, a playlet, a radio script, and music — all specially written to help you observe the birthday of the National Congress — was recently sent out on the standard allotment basis. If your association needs additional copies, write to your state office for them. You will also find suggestions for Founders Day on pages 151-156 of the PARENT-TEACHER MANUAL, as well as in PROJECTS AND PURPOSES and in each year's January and February issues of the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER.

And now, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to all!

WOMEN NEEDED!

The women's divisions of all branches of the armed forces — Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and Marines — are eagerly calling for more recruits. Almost every parent-teacher member is in a position to influence at least one eligible young woman to join Uncle Sam's forces. "The women in service are doing a very necessary job and doing it extremely well," say the men officers who have trained and supervised them, "but we need more of them!" So if you can persuade even one more young woman to "join up," you will be helping our war effort.

FEBRUARY 20-26 WILL BE OBSERVED THROUGHOUT THE LAND AS BROTHERHOOD WEEK. PLAN TO PARTICIPATE.

"WHEN WORK IS DONE"

The Office of War Information has just released a new movie entitled "When Work Is Done," showing the important role that recreation is playing in war production. It is suitable material for general group programs and discussion meetings. Organizations interested in borrowing prints should address their request to the OWI film distributor nearest their community.

War Savings Bulletin

The February issue of SCHOOLS AT WAR, the War Savings News Bulletin for Teachers issued by the Treasury Department, is now being sent to teachers throughout the country. This is a 24-page bulletin with games, plays, quizzes, articles, activities, and pictures to stimulate the purchase of War Bonds and Stamps. Mention this bulletin to your teachers and tell them that if they have not received a copy of it to report that fact to their superintendent who can request copies from the state office of the War Finance Division.

Please Announce at the Next Meeting

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers does not sponsor the sale of any comic magazines. It has not authorized the use of its name or the name of any of its parent-teacher associations to further the sale or promotion of such publications. It has not approved any comic magazine.

The National Congress publishes and promotes *only one magazine*, the *National Parent-Teacher*. This magazine is never sold on newsstands, by paid agents, or in combination with commercial magazines. The *National Parent-Teacher* is sold AT COST as a service to the parents and teachers of America. It depends for its circulation on the good will of its readers and on the volunteer efforts of parent-teacher workers in local P.T.A.'s.

SOLDIER MORALE

Morale can be maintained by many methods in addition to organized programs of recreation. In Kansas parent-teacher members make a special effort to welcome soldier sons of other parent-teacher members. Many write to acquaintances in other states, whom they have met at P.T.A. meetings, asking them to extend courtesies to their own soldier sons and friends. P.T.A. members in Helena, Montana, are using special introduction blanks to foster friendly contacts.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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WHAT THE P.T.A. MEANS TO PARENTS

• Quotations from letters written by members

"My husband has been in the Army for a year and I would have been unbearably lonely if it hadn't been for the P.T.A. The meetings themselves are so very worth while, and the friends I've met are wonderful to me. It's especially nice to talk things over with other mothers who have the same problems that I do."
— Mrs. E. M. H., Minn.

"My oldest girl is fourteen. Like the rest of her set, she is fond of the boys and we were having plenty of worries about her. Then the P.T.A. began its Friday night parties for young people, and she has sort of settled down. She knows that she'll have a grand time every Friday night, so she doesn't worry about having dates on the other nights. These parties are the finest things possible for giving young people the right kind of good times."
— Mrs. W. B. U., Colorado.

"My boy, who is eleven, hadn't gotten along very well in his schoolwork, and his father and I couldn't understand it. He had always seemed very bright to us. I had sort of dreaded talking to the teacher about him, for I am timid about meeting strangers, and then I figured that she was too busy to be bothered with parents. But when I met the teacher at the P.T.A., and saw what a sweet young woman she was, I knew she'd be easy to talk to. She was, and now Billy's troubles are all straightened out and he's getting along fine. I am so thankful to the P.T.A. for this happy solution."
— Mrs. C. K. B., New York

"We moved here last summer and didn't know a soul. Both my husband and I like to have lots of friends, so for several months we were mighty unhappy. He urged me to join the P.T.A. and finally I did. Now I can't understand why I didn't do it sooner. We've met so many nice people, but especially three couples who have children just the age of ours. We share our cars and our gas and have lots of good times together. We are particularly interested in the pre-school course being conducted by our association."
— Mrs. R. D. M., Mass.

"All my life I had known about the P.T.A., but had never joined it, even when my two children started to school. You know how it is; you put things off unless someone gives you a gentle push. This time the push came from the P.T.A. radio program. I got



A Message . . .

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 17, 1943

My dear Mrs. Hastings:

I wish to thank you and Mrs. McClellan for your recent letter and for the careful consideration which the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is giving to the important problems of school lunch and of day care for the children of working mothers who must be employed during the war.

Careful attention is being given to each of these programs. No action has as yet been taken on the school lunch program, and you may be assured that your suggestions will have my most careful consideration in the preparation of a recommendation to the Congress on this subject.

At the time your letter was received, the child care program was being studied with a view to making administrative arrangements which would provide a type of operation consistent with your suggestions.

Please feel free to let me have an expression of your opinion on programs relating to our schools and youth at any time.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. William A. Hastings
President, National Congress of
Parents and Teachers
600 South Michigan Boulevard
Chicago 5, Illinois

into the habit of listening to the Baxters on Saturday mornings; they interested me because their problems were so much like those of my own family. I decided I really should join the P.T.A., partly out of loyalty to the radio program. So I joined, and now I've gotten a tremendous lot of help from the monthly meetings. I'm one of the town's best boosters for the parent-teacher association."

— Mrs. L. N. B., Montana

"I have a large flock of nephews and nieces, and it's always a problem to know what toys to buy the younger ones for Christmas. It was especially diffi-

cult this year, until by chance I came across the December number of the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER. Not only did the fine article on toys answer that particular question, but the Magazine itself solved the gift problem for the mothers of these nephews and nieces. So again, thanks for everything! I'm joining the P.T.A. because I want to take part in the study course, "The Family's Stake in Freedom."

— Mrs. N. V. J., Iowa

Next month we will publish some letters from teacher members.

Once Upon A Time

... (and this is NOT a fairy tale) ...

... there was a big and busy P.T.A. ... dear me, what a busy one! Every member worked from morning to night like a bee in a hive ... you'd never find one of them idle ... and yet (would you believe it?) that P.T.A. COULDN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT!

Now that was a very strange thing, as you will allow. The P.T.A. thought so, too. "Whatever can be wrong?" it asked. "We work and we work for the children's good, we follow out the program of the National Congress — and then we go to bed and see TWO-HEADED MONSTERS with SCALY TAILS! They GRIN HORRIBLY at us and cry, 'Oh-oh, what we know about you!' Oh-oh, what we could tell about you!' ... Maybe we'd better put on a little more steam in our school lunch program — or something!"

So they speeded up their school lunch program like everything — there wasn't a spare inch of ground that didn't have a Victory garden planted on it, and all the members canned food and washed dishes like MAD. But still they couldn't SLEEP. All night long they'd hide under the bed-clothes and shiver while the SCALY MONSTERS overhead would flap their feelers and screech, "Oh-oh, what we know about you-hoo! Call yourselves a P.T.A.!"

"Maybe it wasn't the school lunch after all," one member said. "Maybe we ought to do more about juvenile delinquency." So they raised some money and started a recreation center; and they organized the young people into a Teen-Town; and they got every family to have a family council; and they organized study groups to help parents help the young people behave themselves. And pretty soon there wasn't a single delinquent child left. "Aha!" said the P.T.A., yawning. "Now let's get some sleep."

But what do you think? That night the MONSTERS were SCALIER than EVER, and GREEN besides! "Oh-oh! What we could tell about you-hoo!" they mocked.

"Maybe," another member suggested, "maybe there's some child in this community that still needs glasses ... or hasn't any overshoes ... or can't get along with other children ... or needs

a chance to help in the war effort without working for money in ways and places he's got no business working in ... or something."

The other members agreed that there MIGHT be SOMETHING IN IT. So they made a list of everything and went to work. And pretty soon they had everything cleaned up to such an extent that — well, you never SAW such a community! People came from MILES AROUND just to look at it, and there was a PIECE about it in ALL the PAPERS. And STILL the P.T.A. couldn't sleep!

Nobody knew WHAT to do. And then, next time they had a meeting, all of a SUDDEN the TREASURER said, "Look here, we haven't decided yet how much of these dues we're going to KEEP BACK this time out of the part we're supposed to send to the STATE AND NATIONAL," and somebody else said, "Well, we could use PLENTY right here in our OWN community, and —" Then suddenly there was a LOUD SCREECHING LAUGH overhead, and the P.T.A. members fell into a DREADFUL SILENCE. At last one of them said in a small, small voice, "Do you suppose —" And another one said in a small, small voice, "After all, it's the National Congress that makes all our efforts possible," and another one said in a small, small voice, "If we didn't have those National Congress publications —" and then they ALL said, "Let's turn over a NEW LEAF and send the STATE AND NATIONAL part of the dues IN FULL." And then there was a ROAR of RAGE and a loud WHOOSH of wind, and the GREEN SCALY MONSTERS flew away screaming CURSES. And the P.T.A. hurried up and sent in the DUES ... and that night, when all the members had gone to bed, what do you THINK? There was a strain of SOFT MUSIC ... and a LOVELY DREAM FAIRY appeared, with a voice as gentle as the music; and she said, "Well done, O faithful P.T.A.! You make my heart rejoice, for it was thus I dreamed of seeing you — one of many thousands of groups doing all the fine things that you have done ... but REMEMBERING that we must do those things TOGETHER and that the National Congress is THERE TO HELP, NOT HINDER. That's why it needs YOUR LOYALTY AND FAITH. I thank you, and good night."

With these words the Dream Fairy VANISHED, and the

NEEDLESS CASUALTIES ON THE HOME FRONT

HERE are some startling figures. In the two years after Pearl Harbor, 51,000 persons were killed in traffic accidents in the United States, while 27,500 Americans met death in the war. It doesn't make sense, does it, that any intelligent nation would allow such a situation to continue, if there were any human way of stopping it.

True enough, traffic fatalities have decreased somewhat since automobile driving has been so restricted, but the decrease is obviously slight when traffic deaths still outnumber war casualties almost two to one.

Twenty-nine cities have put on an intensive campaign to reduce traffic accidents and have proved that they *can* be reduced. According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, an average of 51.8 per cent reduction in traffic fatalities was achieved in the twenty-nine municipalities where traffic control programs were organized and thoughtfully carried out. A few cities showed a much higher percentage of decrease: Greenwich, Conn., 92.4 per cent; Lansing, Mich., 30.3 per cent; Atlanta, Ga., 75.1 per cent; and Knoxville, Tenn., 74.1 per cent.

No one wants to lessen the war effort in the slightest degree, but if we gave a fraction of the consideration and effort to the traffic problem that we give to the war effort we could save thousands of lives every year. To say nothing of preventing thousands of non-fatal injuries.

What are *your* community and *your* organization doing about it?

P.T.A., remembering just in time that her lovely features and gracious smile were those of its honored Founder, Alice McLellan Birney, closed its eyes and slept both sweetly and peacefully.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

600 SOUTH MICHIGAN BOULEVARD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

State Office: 316 Tower Building, Madison, Wisconsin

ALL-INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP CARD

NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL, 1943-1944

This certifies that

[name] [year]

IS A MEMBER OF THE

A UNIT OF THE STATE AND NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS AND THAT ALL ANNUAL DUES HAVE BEEN PAID.

MRS. WILLIAM A. HASTINGS

National President

MRS. C. A. CHATTERTON

State President

President of the Local Association (OVER)

• This card is a symbol of parenthood and teacherhood united in volunteer service to America's children.



COUNCIL WAGES FIGHT ON

Delinquency

"THE CAUSES of increased delinquency among unprotected youth and the threat of instability to the youth guarded by home training were imposed upon us as a war condition," writes Mrs. Joseph F. Smith of the Des Moines Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. "We therefore set about to build a guard against these conditions by (1) informing the parents and (2) devising ways and means to keep children occupied."

Conferences at Council Meetings

"We have adopted the plan of having the president of each local unit, together with the chairman of the committee most directly concerned, come to our monthly Council meeting one hour in advance of the regular program. During this hour the presidents with their respective chairmen sit in conference with a special instructor, who informs them on the current subject so that they, in turn, may inform their local units and direct their activities on the basis of well grounded information. At our first meeting of this type we studied the Educational Finance Act, S.637. Our second meeting was devoted to the problem of juvenile protection."

Speakers' Bureau

"We are making a drive through every avenue open to us to awaken the parent to his responsibility to his child. Through a speakers' bureau we are directing talks before all civic groups. After each talk, pamphlets on parental responsibility are distributed to the audience. Each church has been asked to devote one sermon to the subject of parents' responsibility to their children and their community."

Observance of Education Week

"The retail merchants featured home and youth problems by turning over to us their entire page in newspapers during American Education Week.

"We made an organized effort to have all parents visit their schools during that week. They made personal contacts with each other and then adjourned to a mass meeting which was addressed by a speaker on family relations.

"Our radio stations gave us programs and spot announcements throughout the month of November.

"The Des Moines Register and Tribune gave us an excellent editorial as well as valuable news stories from time to time.

"On November 18th, we sponsored an all-day conference on youth guidance, climaxed by a city-wide forum featuring Charlotte Whitton, former executive director of the Canadian Welfare Council, and Dr. Olsen, of the Child Research Department of the University of Michigan."

Parent Education Classes

"Parent education classes have been organized in each high school, with parents of junior and senior high school pupils meeting in the morning, and elementary parents in the afternoon. All the classes are held monthly under the instruction of the Child Research Department of Iowa University."

Recreational Activities

"We assisted in organizing and chaperoning a Bombardier Dry Night Club for all high school pupils, which is held in our Y.W.C.A. twice each week during the summer months and once a week during the school year. The pupils have access to the gym, a large lounge, and a spacious dance floor. In the basement they have a dry bar and snacks, juke box, piano, and ping pong tables. Each pupil pays ten cents admission.

"Our parent-teacher associations, together with the pupils, organized a student union in our largest high school, which meets weekly when not conflicting with other school activities. Here the children may dance, roller skate, play ping pong and other games. These parties are planned and conducted by the students. We sit by as an advisory council only. Similar plans for recreation are being made by the other high schools in our city."

"FIRST LADIES" and the NATIONAL CONGRESS

SINCE its founding, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has enjoyed a most cordial relationship with the "First Ladies" of the land. At the historic opening meeting, on February 17, 1897, Mrs. Grover Cleveland entertained the entire group, well over a thousand, at a White House reception. Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson, wife of the Vice-President of the United States, was one of the first vice-presidents of the Congress, while the ladies of the Cabinet each took an active part in plans for the first meeting.

The following year, the Congress was entertained by Mrs. McKinley at an informal reception. In February, 1902, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt received the officers and delegates at the White House. The first International Congress held its opening meeting in the White House in March, 1908, when President Theodore Roosevelt addressed the group and then, with Mrs. Roosevelt, held a reception and buffet luncheon. Mrs. Herbert Hoover was interested in parent-teacher work for many years, becoming a Life Member in 1929.

The most recent instance of this cordiality on the part of the nation's First Lady was on January 7, 1944, when Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt invited Mrs. Hastings, the president; Mrs. L. W. Hughes, the first vice-president; Mr. Howard V. Funk, the second vice-president; Miss Agnes Samuelson, the School Education chairman; Mrs. Malcolm McClellan, the Legislation chairman; and several other educators for lunch at the White House. Miss Charl Williams, former School Education chairman, was also invited but was unable to attend, because of a serious accident.

The talk centered about the needs of children and the importance of education, with special emphasis on the need for the public to become informed as to what part education must play in preparing children for the future as well as in helping to preserve peace.

The fact that interest in the welfare of children transcends party lines has been demonstrated throughout the forty-seven years of the existence of the National Congress. We see it daily in our state and local activities. Our policy of non-partisanship in political affairs is vital in promoting our objectives, for all right-minded people can agree on the need for—and the value of—those things for which we strive.

STREAMLINERS

Gifts to 17,000 Soldiers

From C. W. Phillips, president of the North Carolina Congress, comes a report of that state's activity in answering the request for gifts for the soldiers at Fort Bragg. From this camp, the men usually go directly into foreign service, and the gifts from the Congress of Parents and Teachers may be the only ones they get. Approximately seventeen thousand individual gifts were sent in by locals, individuals, and school children. They were repacked in the state office and then sent to the Fort. The total value of the packages was estimated at \$4,000.

"All Out" Christmas Giving

The New Jersey Congress went "all out" on Christmas gifts to men and women in service. Under the leadership of Mrs. Leonard G. Twitchell, state president, who was also chairman of the state "Buddy Bags" committee, the New Jersey Congress sent 1500 Buddy Bags to the crew of the battleship New Jersey. In addition, county and city P.T.A.'s did their part individually. Camden County, for example, sent 3,860 gifts, all dressed up in traditional Christmas wrappings, to the nearby camps and recreation centers. Besides their gifts to men and women in service, the Camden city and county P.T.A.'s sent food and gifts to the children in institutions and homes, who might otherwise have been forgotten.

Successful Salvaging

From Mrs. Ulric Shortley, War Service chairman of the Rhode Island Congress, comes a report of the state's salvaging activities. Mrs. Shortley is working with the state Director of Education to set up a plan whereby they can check on all school cafeterias and lunchrooms to urge them to save waste fat for salvage. Since such cafeterias are classified as restaurants and not given any points for turned-in fat, they may be advised to take the waste fat to the corner grocery, as housewives do, and thereby acquire the points.

Program in Honor of Our Magazine

To commemorate the publication of the first issue of the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER in November, 1906, District 24 of the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers held its annual District Magazine Tea in November, rather than in February, as has been the custom. In addition to a discussion of various subjects that have been covered in Magazine articles, the program contained some very fine "selling pointers" for Magazine chairmen.

Let us know how you like the National Radio Program, "The Baxters". Send your comments to Mrs. Harry Mulberry, Chairman, Radio Project Committee, Room 1300, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois.



THE IMPORTANCE OF

Belonging . . .

- TO OUR NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION
- AS TOLD BY AN ALABAMA EDUCATOR

MORE than once I have said from the platform and in public print that, in my opinion, no school can be administered successfully today without an active parent-teacher association. My continued study of the purposes of the modern school and of the demands being made upon it by our changing civilization confirms my previous opinion and justifies a repetition of my former statements.

"The parent-teacher association is the only organization that attempts to unite the interests of school and society at the several levels between kindergarten and college. It is the only nonprofessional group that undertakes the difficult task of interpreting the school to the community and the community to the school. It, therefore, holds a position in relation to child welfare that is unique. Accordingly, it assumes, voluntarily or involuntarily, a responsibility that is as heavy as it is unusual.

"This program of interpretation is a vast one — far flung through county, state, and nation. It involves close organization of local associations, through councils, through state branches, and finally through the Na-

tional Congress of Parents and Teachers. The fact that it is national in scope at once raises the influence, services, and responsibilities of the parent-teacher association, just as the exponent increases the power of the factor in mathematics.

"Personally, I am glad to belong to an organization that is nation-wide, not so much because of its bigness or of its great influence; not because of the high-sounding titles of its officers, or because of the imposing appearance of its published reports and yearbooks. These are all right and serve, effectively, very useful purposes; but to me the importance of membership in the P.T.A. lies in the fact that because it is national, it is American. It is important because it is concerned with the child as a child, and not because he is a Southern child, or a Catholic child, or a Chinese child, or a millionaire's child. It is important because it alone is able to give to you, a parent in California, or to your cousin, a parent in Maine, or to me, a parent in Alabama, the American point of view as to what our schools must be and do if our children are to be trained to live the American life worthily and happily."

Is your P.T.A. taking action that will help to curb juvenile delinquency? Have you a committee on Juvenile Protection? Have the members of this committee seen the articles on delinquency in the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* and in the *National Congress Bulletin*? You can keep your members informed and ready for action by giving them copies of these publications to read each month.



Alice Birney Robert, great-granddaughter of the founder, at the dedication of the Birney memorial.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The National President is deeply appreciative of the friendly thoughtfulness that prompted the many cards and remembrances which came to her at Christmas from all parts of the country. She wishes to take this opportunity to thank each individual and group for its kindly greetings and good wishes.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Child Welfare Conference

Time — May 22, 23, 24

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Place — New York City, N. Y.

Hotel Pennsylvania

Child Labor MANIFESTO

AT THE Conference of National Agencies which met at the Young Women's Christian Association on November 1, the following statement, known as the Child Labor Manifesto, was authorized. The following Board Members of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers attended the Conference: Mrs. William A. Hastings, president; Mr. Howard V. Funk, vice-president; Mrs. Malcolm McClellan, Legislation chairman; and Mrs. Leonard G. Twitchell, president of the New Jersey Congress.

War exacts a heavy price from children. In the United States our children have so far been spared the terrors of bombing and invasion and the horror of starvation. But our children have not been untouched—many are living in strange and new communities under crowded conditions—many are neglected because of the absence of mothers on war jobs—some are already orphaned as war casualties mount. Other children are burdened prematurely with work too heavy for their strength—thousands are laying aside their school books to take full-time jobs.

We believe

that the demands for war production and essential civilian services can be met without exploiting children;

We believe

that children can contribute to the life of their communities in many useful ways but that it is a shortsighted policy to employ them at hours or under conditions which threaten their physical development and impair their educational opportunities;

We believe

that the protection of children from harmful child labor is a community enterprise of first importance dependent upon the cooperation of parents,

employers, schools and other community agencies.

THEREFORE:

We call upon

young people to resist the lure of war wages and to remember that temporary financial gain cannot offset future educational handicaps, and we urge parents to support this view;

We commend

the efforts of all socially minded citizens to keep children from leaving school and to prevent their excessive employment outside of school hours;

We urge

employers and schools, wherever this is desirable, to institute jointly well-balanced schedules of part-time school and supervised work;

We urge

legislators and government officials to refuse to allow child labor laws to be broken down and to maintain sufficient staffs for their enforcement;

We call upon

all the forces in the community—the home, the school, the church, industry and commerce, labor, social and civic agencies—to unite in protecting our children.

Every P.T.A. leader who is promoting the use of the *National Parent-Teacher* is promoting parent education and home and school cooperation, and bringing into the community information and knowledge that will focus attention on the family as the basic unit of a democratic society.

NATIONAL SOCIAL HYGIENE DAY

United community action against venereal disease is the theme of National Social Hygiene Day, February 2. Dr. Walter Clarke, Executive Director of the American Social Hygiene Association,

points out that syphilis and gonorrhea are the most important health problems of the Army, Navy, war workers, and youth in general. "The key to future progress against the venereal diseases is common action," said Dr. Clarke. More than any other health problem, these infections must be the concern of everyone in the community. It is our hope that this year's Social Hygiene Day will be a focal point for giving increased support to measures intended to help win the war, safeguard health and character, and protect the American family as the basic institution of our country.

Leaflets giving further information may be obtained by writing to the American Social Hygiene Association, 1790 Broadway, New York 19, N.Y.

P.T.A. BOOKS for P.T.A. Study Groups



• Parents and the Preschool Child

is designed primarily for groups interested in young children. It contains 76 pages, including 7 pages of questions and true and false presentations. The price is 25¢.

• Community Life in a Democracy

should be considered MUST reading by every group that is concerned with the much-talked-of problem of juvenile delinquency. According to an outstanding social worker, the leaders of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers should be congratulated on the foresight that enabled them to have in print NOW a book that gives a clear picture of community services that will counteract the basic causes of a devastating social situation.

Community Life in a Democracy contains 254 pages, 25 of which are devoted to questions to guide the discussion and lists of books and other references for additional reading. The price is \$1.

See to it that your study groups are acquainted with these ready-to-hand helps. Order from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 600 S. Michigan Blvd., Chicago 5, Ill.

The National Congress notes with deepest sorrow the death of one of its distinguished life members, Mrs. Herbert Hoover. On May 8, 1929, Mrs. Hoover was introduced to the group attending the Annual National Convention, then meeting in Washington, D.C. At that time she spoke of her long membership in the parent-teacher organization. A National Life Membership and a parent-teacher pin were presented to Mrs. Hoover by the president of the National Congress.

STREAMLINERS

For P. T. A. Sons in Service

The Florida Congress of Parents and Teachers has inaugurated a clever means "for furthering in a new field our concern for the welfare of youth." Special blanks have been prepared, in which members are asked to write the name and address of sons or other relatives or friends in service and send to the parent-teacher association nearest the serviceman's camp. The system has a twofold advantage: it enables parent-teacher members to extend hospitality to men in service, and it gives the servicemen an opportunity to make pleasant social contacts.

New Uses for Old Brooms

From Mrs. Ben McCamant, secretary of the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers, comes a report of a new kind of salvaging. The Wichita Council is sponsoring a broom handle collection by the local units. The units receive 3½ cents per handle, and the handles are turned over to the Blind Shop, which paints them for new brooms.

A Timely Exchange Service

The Finch Preschool Association, in Spokane, Washington, inaugurated an exchange service three years ago which is becoming increasingly important as the war continues. Baby beds, perambulators, corduroy pants, tricycles, snow suits—these and dozens of other articles are "exchanged" between members, the terms of each "exchange" being privately arranged by the interested parties. The Association merely handles the lists of things wanted and things offered for sale—with gratifying results for all.

EDUCATION FOR FREEDOM, INC.

Education for Freedom, Inc., a new non-commercial and non-political organization recently formed by a group of citizens deeply concerned with the educational situation, will clarify its purpose through a series of radio broadcasts over the Mutual Broadcasting System. The broadcasts will be given every Monday night, at 10:15 to 10:30 p.m., Eastern War Time, until March 6. The talks will be given by such outstanding educators and authors as Robert M. Hutchins, Walter Lipmann, John Erskine, Mortimer Adler, Mark Van Doren, Alexander Meiklejohn, Alfred Noyes, and others.

Further information about Education for Freedom, Inc., may be obtained by writing directly to the organization, at 70 East 45th St., New York 17, N. Y.

How many other officers and chairmen see your copy of the *National Congress Bulletin*? Don't pigeon-hole it! Pass it along! An informed membership is an effective membership.

Don't Let Yours

... be the only P.T.A. in the country without a subscription to the *National Parent-Teacher*. If you haven't done so already, arrange now to have your association order the Magazine. The subscription can well be charged to budget items such as extension, child welfare, library, publications, education, etc. The leaders of your national organization are eager to have EVERY P.T.A. on the subscription mailing list. This is so, not because more subscriptions will mean a profit to anyone, but because all parent-teacher members will be able to do a better job if they read and study the splendid articles and other features in their national Magazine.

Your association HAS NOT DONE ALL IT CAN DO for America's children until it has taken steps to acquaint its members with the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER.

Every local association should, of course, have at least one subscription copy. Moreover, every state, district, and council leader should be a subscriber. Leaders who read the *National Parent-Teacher* and the *National Congress Bulletin* will find it much easier to interpret the organization's policies and programs to the membership and to the public in general.

As a mark of the high esteem in which the Magazine is held by those who read it regularly, we quote from a few of the many letters sent to the editors:

"Accept my heartiest congratulations upon such a superb issue. Every word is keyed to the times and usable by everyone who has the education of children as a responsibility.—Mrs. E. W., Pittsburgh, Pa.

"I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the excellence of the *National Parent-Teacher*. I find it invaluable as reference reading in my course in family relationships.—B. G., New York, N. Y.

"The *National Parent-Teacher* has, in my opinion, proved to be the best year's subscription in its history. Each number has kept right up with every vital issue confronting our homes, schools, communities, and nation. I enthusiastically pronounce it the 'best all around' magazine of the year.—Mrs. R. P., Troy, Ala.

"Our president, vice-president, and program chairman are most enthusiastic about the ideas

NATIONAL RADIO PROGRAM EXTENDED

13 Weeks

As we go to press we learn that our popular **P.T.A. Radio Family**, the BAXTERS, will continue on the air for another thirteen weeks. We know that our many listeners will welcome this news and will want to send a note of appreciation to the National Broadcasting Company, New York City, for its cooperation in making this additional program possible.

One of the noticeable things about the Baxter audience is the fact that it is now by no means confined to parent-teacher members and groups. It is gratifying to know that our program is securing the attention of listeners outside the organization as well as inside it. When it becomes evident that increasing numbers of families are turning to the National Congress broadcasts for help in solving their own family problems intelligently, that's real P.T.A. progress, and it is bound to mean increased memberships.

DIAL IN ON THE BAXTERS—

Saturdays, 1:30 p.m., Eastern War Time, over the N.B.C. stations. Chicago area listeners get the program on Saturdays over station WMAQ at 9:45 a.m., Central War Time.

and suggestions from the *National Parent-Teacher*.—Mrs. E.V.H., Oak Park, Ill.

"As I am engaged in safety work in the schools I come in frequent contact with cases of juvenile delinquency, and your Magazine is most helpful in my work.—C.B., Washington, D.C.

Be SURE to call your MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S attention to a special article coming in the February issue. It is called "Our Schools Need Parent-Teacher Associations," and is written by Paul W. Sloan, Professor of Education, Buffalo State Teachers College. There isn't a Membership chairman in the country who should miss it. Subscriptions received up until February 15 will be started with the February number. If your association is not on the mailing list, send in your order today so that your Membership chairman may use this material.

SAVE

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